WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Public Consultation on Right to Information Act

*21. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Personnel and Training despite assurances did not initiate public consultations on the rules and guidelines before implementation of the Right to Information Act; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Right to Information Act, 2005 was enacted after detailed consultation with the various stakeholders including the public, In order to carry out the provisions of the Act, Government has notified the following rules, namely:—

(1) Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) Rules, 2005; and

(2) Central Information Commission (Appeal Procedure) Rules, 2005

The Government while finalizing the Rules regarding fees and costs took into account the rules framed under various State enactments, views earlier received from the public on the rules proposed under Freedom of Information Act, 2002, views expressed in the regional meetings of Chief Secretaries and the suggestions received from Civil Society groups, etc.

As regards guidelines, Government shall bring out a Users' Guide within 18 months of the commencement of the Act, as per the requirement of Section 26 of the Act.

National Highways in Kerala

*22. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects seeking financial assistance to improve the National Highways in Kerala pending with Government for sanction;

(b) the amount of funds allotted to Kerala for the improvement of National Highways during the current year and the details of the projects; and

(c) the present stage of Kollam bypass in Kerala and the proposed plan for the implementation of subsequent phases?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government of Kerala has submitted 35 proposals amounting to Rs. 124.53 Crore, out of which 11 proposals amounting to Rs. 58 Crore, not included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 have been returned unapproved. Three proposals amounting to Rs. 10 Crore have been returned for modification. Eight proposals amounting to Rs. 16.40 Crore have been sanctioned. In addition seven revised estimates for projects sanctioned during the previous years have also been approved, involving additional amount of Rs. 6.70 Crore over the amount previously sanctioned.

The ceiling for sanction for Plan Schemes for the State of Kerala during the current financial year is Rs. 33 Crore. Within this ceiling, three proposals amounting to Rs. 7.10 Crore besides one revised estimate with additional cost of Rs. 3 Crore are pending for sanction. These estimates are under consideration.

(b) Rs. 55.96 Crore, including Permanent Bridge Fee fund, has been allocated for improvement of National Highways in Kerala during the current year. The details of the ongoing projects are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Land in average width of 45m. for a length of 13.12 km for construction of Kollam bypass has been acquired. 4.77 km of two lane Kollam Bypass has already been constructed. The remaining portion of Kollam Bypass is proposed for construction as a part of Cherthala-Trivandrum section of NH-47, under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III-A on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of this section of NH-47 has been taken up.

Statement

Details of ongoing Projects for the improvement of National Highways

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	N.H. No.	Name of the Work	Sanctioned amount
1	2	3	4
1	49	Construction of Valara bridge at km. 207/530	92.87

1	2	3	4
2	212	Widening to two lane from km. 55/00 to 57/00 and providing pre-cast concrete blocks at hair pin bends between km. 49/500 to 50/00	635.62
3	47	Providing paved shoulders on either side from km. 400/400 to 438/00 in selected stretches in a total length of 20.27 Km.	289.21
4	17	Providing Paved Shoulder on either side from km. 400/300 to 414/600 (except Km. 407/600 to 411/00)	134.57
5	17	Construction of Paved Shoulders on either side from Km. 342/00 to 363/00	276.8
6	17	Construction of Paved Shoulders on either side from Km. 369/804 to 393/00	286.77
7	17	Improvement to Nut Street Junction, Narayana Nagaram Junction and road safety measures on Vatakara bypass from Km. 197/260 to 200/100	71.59
8	17	Construction of Calicut bypass Phase-III from Ch. 14500 to 20870 including bridge across Mampuzha river	1471.71
9	47	Construction of Alappuzha bypass Phase-II from Ch.2300 to 6150	672.87
10	17	L.A. for the construction of old and narrow bridge at palolipalam and its approaches from Km. 201/090 to 202/065	202.91
11	17	Construction of new road from Kuttipuram to Puduponnani phase-II and III from Km. 319/370 to 323/200 and Km. 323/200 to 334/745	1465.8
12	17	L.A. for the reach from Cheriappally-Varapuzha from Km. 425/200 to 429/550 (Ch. 16402 to 20525)	1036
13	208	Improvement to accident prone location in the Ghat section between Km. 68/00 to 69/200 and Km. 80/940 to 81/00	287.64

1	2	3	4
14	49	Construction of Erumpuplam bridge at Km. 201/685	92.87
15	49	LA for construction of Tripunithura Bypass at Km. 274/00 to 277/750 (Phase-I from Km. 274/00 to 277/306 and Phase-II from Km. 277/306 to 277/750)	657
16	47	LA for construction of Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara Bypass Phase-II portion from Mukkola to Kanjiramkulam (Ch. 3271m to 8741m)	1042.2
17	49	Construction of Vellamakuthu bridge at Km. 226/827	106.3
18	213	Widening and strengthening of the road from Km. 72/500 to 73/00	54.58
19	220	Recons. of collapsed retaining wall at Km. 184/600 to Km. 184/800 on NH 220	32.34
20	17	Improvement of junction near Thalassery Co-operative Hospital between 175/00 to 175/150 and widening it to four lane (spot widening)	21.26
21	17	Realignment from Km. 434/00 to 438/827-Construction of immediate approaches to ROB Edappally at Km. 437/375 between Km. 436/380 (Ch. 1875m) and Km. 438/350 (Ch. 3650m) including 280.80m long viaducts on either side of NH-17	1792.34
22	17	Construction of Paved Shoulders on either side from Km. 395/00 to 398/500	46.09
23	17	Construction of Paved Shoulders on either side from Km. 429/550 to 434/430	32.65
24	212	Reconstruction of damaged culverts at Km. 73/300 and extension of culverts at Km. 61/575, 71/500 & 73/700	45.59
25	213	Construction of Paved shoulder from Km. 40/00 to 64/00	263.55

1	2	3	4
26	49	Reconstruction of 15 Nos. of damaged culverts between Km. 119/017 and 183/00	168.57
27	212	Widening the carriageway to 2 lane from Km. 97/600 to 117/600	581.19
28	212	Construction of Paved shoulders from Km. 5/00 to 20/00 and drain in between Km. 13/950 to 15/500	280.03
29	212	Construction of Paved shoulders from Km. 20/00 to 45/00	385.66
30	212	Widening of the road to 2 lane between Km. 54/400 to 55/00	407.86
31	212	Wideing of the road to 2 lane between Km. 52/400 to 54/00	441.24
32	17	Construction of Calicut bypass Ph-IV in length of 2.74 km. from Ch. 11960m to 14700m (modified chainage)	933.11
33	213	Providing drainage system to Kondoty town from Km. 27/500 to 28/700	73.52
34	17	Construction of Vellor bridge at Km. 108/400 (new Ch. 97/466) and realignment of immediate approaches between Km. 107/705 to 109/00 (new Ch.96/320 to 97/500)	384.07
35	17	Construction of CC drain from Km. 406/00 to 410/00	52.87
36	17	IRQP from Km. 94/100 to 104/000	175.25
37	212	IRQP from Km. 94/100 to 104/000	256.51
38	47	IRQP from Km. 358/760 to 368/855	308.66
39	47	IRQP from Km. 368/855 to 378/956	316.73
40	17	IRQP from Km. 206/500 to 215/000	214.24
41	47	IRQP from Km. 438/000 to 450/000	191.71
42	47	IRQP from Km. 450/000 to 462/000	170.58

1	2	3	4
43	17	IRQP from Km. 145/000 to 157/100	301.32
44	47-A	IRQP from Km. 0/000 5/920	167.00
45	17	IRQP from Km. 20/870 to 28/125	247.44
46	47	IRQP from Km. 8/350 to 13/141 of Kollam bypass Ph-I & Ph-II	109.090
47	47	IRQP from Km. 538/00 to 546/00	254.910
48	17	Repair & reconstruction of CC drains from km. 221/500 to 222/500 on NH-17	52.32
49	220	IRQP Km. 136/700 to 146/975 (bridge fee)	247.16
50	220	IRQP Km. 211/000 to 215/450	134.22
51	220	Kulathupalam bridge at km. 214/750	80.30
52	208	IRQP Km. 52/000 to 66/000 (bridge fee)	335.69
53	49	IRQP Km. 274/000 to 286/610	388.66
54	49	IRQP Km. 210/000 to 220/000	197.52
55	49	IRQP Km. 261/000 to 274/000	196.94
56	49	IRQP Km. 274/00 to 286/610 and providing paved shoulders from Km. 280/00 to 286/610	388.66
		TOTAL :	19554.16

Agreement with Malaysia

*23. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Malaysia have agreed to strengthen the cooperation in the information and communication technology sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?